

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 4**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2002-040**  
**DATE: June 7, 2002      TIME: 1:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Drought/Fires - Dry conditions in areas of high fuel content have increased the potential for fire and drought throughout North Dakota.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has received reports of two fatalities and two injuries.
3. DAMAGES: Officials in Stutsman County reported seven grass fires on Thursday, May 30, and one on Friday, May 31. These fires damaged trees, fences and utility poles. During May, Stutsman County officials received 29 reports of grass fires.

Sioux County officials have received reports of approximately 30 fires during May. On Tuesday, June 4, a 60-acre fire encroached on the city of Fort Yates before it was contained.

On Wednesday, June 5, local and federal firefighters contained a 10-acre fire on the Little Missouri National Grasslands. The blaze was located approximately three miles northwest of the Burning Coal Vein and approximately six miles northeast of the Logging Camp Ranch, in the northern portion of Slope County close to the Billings and Golden Valley County lines. Some ponderosa pine trees were destroyed.

On Thursday, June 6, a grass fire south of Bismarck in Burleigh County burned approximately 320 acres in the state-managed Apple Creek Game Management Area. Aerial reconnaissance by local officials was used to determine the blaze was contained.

4. RESOURCES:  
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.  
STATE: No change from previous reports.  
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On Tuesday, June 4, the Grant County Commission Chairman proclaimed a drought disaster.

The chairman of the Sioux County Commission issued a drought disaster declaration Tuesday, June 4.

On Thursday, June 6, the Hettinger County Commission issued a drought disaster declaration.

Also on June 6, the Adams County Commission issued an emergency declaration due to extremely dry conditions.

The Bismarck Rural Fire Department on Thursday, June 6, banned all open burning in Burleigh County until further notice.

Local United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Emergency Boards from six counties submitted requests to the State USDA Emergency Board for emergency grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands. Counties include Logan, Emmons, Grant, Hettinger, Adams and Bowman.

The North Dakota Agriculture Statistics Service issued topsoil and subsoil moisture reports for the week ending June 2. Amounts of topsoil and subsoil moisture in all but the adequate subsoil category showed a decline from a year ago.

<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	9%	34%	56%	1%
Last Year	7%	19%	61%	13%
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	6%	29%	63%	2%
Last Year	3%	11%	69%	17%

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance is needed at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous report.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local, tribal, federal and private entity emergency operations plans (EOPs) and procedures have been implemented.

The N.D. Rural Fire Mitigation Guide is posted on the N.D. Division of Emergency Management web site at: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Information regarding fire weather forecasts can be found on the National Weather Service (NWS) web site at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bis/fire.htm>.

Situation Reports published by N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director